

DMS School Counseling Program

We are so pleased to have you and your child(ren) as a part of our super teams. We would like to take this opportunity to introduce ourselves and explain the many services offered by us at Drake Middle. As school counselors, we are here to assist all students in having a positive and productive time at school. Please take a moment to familiarize yourself with this very important component of your student's school experience.

One important aspect we would like to share up front is confidentiality. We stress the importance of information concerning your child to be kept confidential (unless there is danger or possible danger involved). Also, we ask you share with us any items that can help us serve your student as best we can!

Whether it be to share exciting news or just for an adult to listen to them, we hope we see your student this coming year!

Feel free to contact us by email or by phone! We look forward to working with you and your student! Your counselors at J. F. Drake Middle School would like your input in helping plan their activities for the 2023-2024 school year. Using the QR code or the link below, answer each statement as you CURRENTLY feel.




Sincerely,
RaeAnn Hines, rkhines@auburnschools.org
(Leopards, Panthers, & Tigers)
Adam Keel, awkeel@auburnschools.org
(Cosmic Cats, Lions, & Pumas)

Link to Counseling Survey:
<https://forms.office.com/r/gcFQgNNMOT>

DMS Mission Statement

Drake Middle School's School Counseling Program's mission statement is to:

- Educate the whole child by providing encouragement and support for students to excel academically, socially, and emotionally, fostering lifelong learners.
- Inspire all students to explore and connect interests and abilities with future career choices.
- Empower all students to identify their personal strengths and assets and acquire interpersonal skills needed to effectively interact with others.

This mission ultimately strives to inspire all students to be honest and  determined in bridging interests and abilities with future career choices, fostering lifelong learners.

What Do Middle School Counselors Do?

During middle school, counselors' concerns shift to the changing needs of the young adolescent. Counselors focus on helping students to establish, identify, and balance academic, career, and personal/social goals. Efforts begun in elementary are continued/expanded, although an emphasis is placed on the transition into secondary schools. In addition, middle school counselors help students integrate knowledge of their interests, aptitude, and academic skills into the formation of a high school four-year educational plan and educational/career planning portfolio for high school and beyond.

WHY DO KIDS NEED SCHOOL COUNSELING?

- Children learn best when they feel good about themselves and their relationships with others.
- Children who understand their feelings are better able to control their behavior.
- We know that stress can affect focus and learning, but its impact can be reduced with proven self-regulation strategies.
- Schools, parents, and communities that communicate and collaborate provide the most effective support to children.
- Attitudes formed during elementary school shape future attitudes towards learning, self, and society.

WHAT SUPPORTS DO YOU PROVIDE?

- Classroom guidance lessons
- Individual/Small group counseling
- Crisis intervention
- Consultation with parents and school staff
- Coordination with outside agencies
- Referrals for community services

WHAT OTHER WAYS DO YOU SUPPORT STUDENTS?

- Student of the Month
- Character in Action Liaison
- Various Recognition Initiatives
- A listening ear for:
 - Working on Friendships
 - Handling Emotions/Coping
 - Setting Goals/Decision-Making
 - Conflict Resolution
 - Anger/Behavior Management
 - Self-Esteem
 - Study Skills/Organization
- And more...

HOW ARE YOU DIFFERENT FROM A THERAPIST AT AN OUTSIDE AGENCY?

Although we do often help with family problems and behavior, our primary role is to deal with school-related problems. At times, an issue is better handled more intensively in a therapeutic setting, and with greater direct parental involvement. Contact us for more information and potential resources.